

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for removing hair from a bovine animal, wherein said animal is immobilized, dispatched, and fabricated into meat sections, said method comprising:

5 (a) contacting a depilatory substance comprising sodium hydroxide to said animal's hair;

(b) removing said hair contacted by said depilatory substance;

(c) collecting first and second waste streams from said step (a) of contacting and from said step (b) of removing, wherein said waste streams are collected separately and wherein said first waste stream contains a greater content of animal hair  
10 components than said second waste stream;

(d) separately processing said first waste stream by separating animal hair components from said first waste stream;

(e) recycling at least one of said first and second waste streams to reuse components thereof in said method for removing hair.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein at least one of said first or second waste streams contain substantially no water.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the directing one or more of said waste streams through means for separation selected from the group consisting of a centrifuge, a vibrating screen and a screen having hydrophobic material associated therewith.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for removing hair from a bovine animal, wherein said animal is immobilized, dispatched, and fabricated into meat sections, said method comprising:

(a) spraying a depilatory substance to said animal's hair;

5 (b) removing said hair contacted by said depilatory substance;

(c) collecting first and second waste streams from said step (a) of contacting and from said step (b) of removing, wherein said waste streams are collected separately and wherein said first waste stream contains a greater content of animal hair components than said second waste stream;

10 (d) separately processing said first waste stream by separating animal hair components from said first waste stream;

(e) recycling at least one of said first and second waste streams to reuse components thereof in said method for removing hair.